

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

JULY 16, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced that Michael Sage Danton, a.k.a., Michael Jefferson, 23, of Brentwood, Missouri, pled guilty today in federal court in East St. Louis, Illinois, to Count 1 of an Indictment charging him with conspiracy to cause another to travel in interstate commerce in connection with a murder-for-hire plot, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1958.

The plea was entered following negotiations with the Government as part of a Plea Agreement. The maximum penalties that can be imposed are 10 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and 3 years' supervised release.

Sentencing has been set for October 22, at 1:30 p.m.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Clark, and was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Plea Agreement and Factual Stipulation are attached in PDF format.